



Lesson 54: The strong and weak man

Scriptural Basis:



Judges 13-16

Things to consider:

The key is in verse 13:5; the angel of the Lord (Jesus) visits Manoah's wife, and tells her that she will have a son who will "begin the deliverance of Israel from the hands of the Philistines."

The gospel in the story:



The pattern of the young nation of Israel continues. Though called the children of God, their hearts are quick to turn to false gods. As a result, God removes His protection over Israel. However in His loving faithfulness, He doesn't remove His presence. He also, in pure acts of mercy, provides relief in the form of judges. However, no matter who God sends to provide deliverance from the earthly enemies, the Israelites deliverance is never complete, because the problem of sinful hearts. God had a plan to some day send one who was not merely human, but God with us as man who would finally and completely defeat sin.

Bible Study for Preparation:



Read Judges 13-16, and then 2 Corinthians 12. Consider the contrast between a strong man weakened by his own sin and faithlessness, and a weak man empowered through his faith and dependence on GOD!,



Out of weakness, they were made strong. Hebrews 11:34

Teaching the lesson:

A: Review – Last week – The story of Abimelech – the BAD brother

B: Bible verse memory activity

C. Story

D. Additional activity

The gospel in the story:



The pattern of the young nation of Israel continues. Though called the children of God, their hearts are quick to turn to false gods. As a result, God removes His protection over Israel. However in His loving faithfulness, He doesn't remove His presence. He also, in pure acts of mercy, provides relief in the form of judges. However, no matter who God sends to provide deliverance from the earthly enemies, the Israelites deliverance is never complete, because the problem of sinful hearts. God had a plan to some day send one who was not merely human, but God with us as man who would finally and completely defeat sin.

Application:

Head: **What did we learn?**

Q: How was the birth of Samson a miracle? A: Even though Manoah's wife couldn't have children, God visited them and told them they would have a son who was to be a Nazarite (set apart for God).

Q: What was God's purpose for giving Manoah and his wife a son? A: To give a judge to Israel who would "begin the deliverance of Israel from the Philistines." (13:5)

Q: How did God use Samson's strength to "confront the Philistines? A: Samson fought them with the jawbone of a donkey, he used foxes to burn their fields, and at the end of his life, prayed for strength one last time to destroy the temple of Dagon and over 3000 Philistines with him.

Heart : **Memory verse**

Out of weakness, they were made strong. Hebrews 11:34

Hands: **How does this affect the way I live my life?**

The most important theme in the book of Judges is that our sinful hearts make us weak and prone to rebel and follow false gods. Only Jesus has the permanent salvation from the problem of sin.

Home: **How does this affect my household?**

God raised up judges from many different tribes (households), but none were able to bring true deliverance. Only a household grounded in the strength of Jesus can hope for true deliverance.

Heaven: **How can we be intentional about sharing our faith?**

Do our neighbors know that we are weak, but follow a God who is infinitely strong? That is a key piece of the witness we are called to share with our friends and neighbors who don't know Jesus.



 *Learning At Home*

Bible Study:



The gospel in the story:



Application

Head:

Home:

Heart:

Heaven:

Hands: